

3. (twice amended) The [animal] rodent of claim [2] 1 wherein the [molecule is] DNA sequence encodes syndecan -1.

4. (twice amended) The [animal] rodent of claim [2] 1 wherein the syndecan is expressed [preferentially] in the areas of the hypothalamus responsible for the regulation of body weight and energy balance.

5. (amended) The [animal] rodent of claim [4 having incorporated therein a construct including] 1 where the promoter is a cytomegalovirus promoter or functional portion thereof [including] , and the CMV intermediate/early enhancer.

6. (amended) The [animal] rodent of claim 1 having the genotype FVB/N-TgN(synd-1).

Please cancel claims 7-9.

10. (twice amended) A method for screening for compounds which can alter body weight comprising:

3 administering a compound to a [non-human] transgenic [animal genetically engineered to express] rodent whose genome comprises a stably integrated DNA sequence encoding a syndecan [or proteoglycan portions thereof] operably linked to a promoter, wherein [the animal is characterized by an obese phenotype] expression of the DNA sequences results in the rodent developing maturity onset obesity [.] , and

observing whether there is a change in body weight over a period of time.

Please cancel claim 11.